

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

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Conyers on Senate Agreement Concerning Dodd-Conyers Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act:
One Step Closer to a Giant Leap in Voting Rights for All Americans

In reaction to today's agreement to resolve outstanding disputes concerning the election reform bill he authored with Senator Chris Dodd and Majority Leader Daschle, Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement:

"With Senate unanimous consent agreement to limit debate on the Dodd-Conyers 'Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act,' we are one step closer to a giant leap in voting rights for all Americans. Senators Dodd and Daschle deserve the praise of the entire civil rights community for moving this issue forward. Unlike the timid reform bill passed by the House, this bill would make the most fundamental right of citizenship, the right to vote, a reality for disabled voters and minorities. Perhaps most importantly, it would guarantee that the punchcard machines that disenfranchised thousands of poor and minority voters are discarded in the dustbin of history.

A conference committee will soon be forced to make the most crucial civil rights decision in decades: will it provide voters with true reform or just good intentions?"

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